



The Reverend Barbara Libby, Interim Pastor  
203 389-8946 – [barlibby@rhccucc.org](mailto:barlibby@rhccucc.org)  
The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Assoc. Pastor  
860 529-3013 – [associate@rhccucc.org](mailto:associate@rhccucc.org)  
Meghan Davis Young, Acting Director Christian Education  
860 966-2432 – [christianed@rhccucc.org](mailto:christianed@rhccucc.org)  
Will Kanute, Director of Music  
860 233-1704 – [music@rhccucc.org](mailto:music@rhccucc.org)  
860 529-4167 Church – 860 257-9637 Fax  
Vol. 24 No. 1 – January 1, 2010



## January Newsletter

Editor – Carol Harvey  
RHCC e-mail address – [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)  
Website: [www.rhccucc.org](http://www.rhccucc.org)  
Office Hours – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. M-F  
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible



**Due to the snowstorm on December 21, 2009  
the Christmas Pageant has been rescheduled for January 10, 2010.**

## Happy New Year!

Happy New Year and Blessings to all! Does it seem possible that another year has come around again? Somehow the year 2010 sounds like we are well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century – no longer just testing the water of the new millennium. This will be an important year in the life of Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. There will undoubtedly be more changes for this congregation in this New Year. With the Senior Pastor Search Committee at work there will continue to be the anticipation of a new settled senior pastor for the future. None of us ever really knows what a New Year will bring. We can dream and hope and imagine! We pray for God’s continued presence with us and for God’s guidance as we move through this new year. We might be tempted to say that the holidays are now over. Yet we know that “holy days” are never over. Poet Ann Weems captures this in her poem *It is not over* from her book *Kneeling in Bethlehem*:

It is not over, this birthing.

There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars.

When we begin to think that we can predict the advent of God,  
that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem,

that’s just the time that God will be born in a place we can’t imagine and won’t believe.

Those who wait for God watch with their hearts and not their eyes, listening always  
listening for angel words.

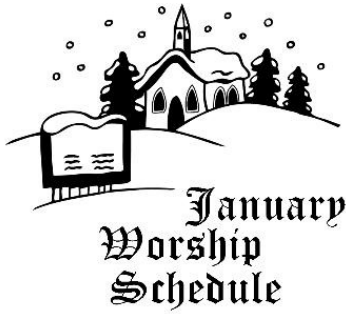
**DUE TO THE CANCELLATION OF CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS SUNDAY THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WILL TAKE PLACE – SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 AT 10 AM**

### **Stars, Stars, and More Stars – RESCHEDULED AHEAD TO Sunday, January 24**

You may have noticed all the gold stars that were gradually added to the sanctuary throughout Advent. Perhaps you had an opportunity to make or receive a gold star at some time during this season. We all wonder what the New Year will bring. Perhaps there will be a word for this New Year that will have importance for you in the coming months. It is possible that a “word” like truth, purity, discernment, beauty, joy, prayerfulness, patience, peace, faithfulness, healing, or wholeness may have a special meaning for you in this new year. Come worship with us on Sunday, January 24 when we will celebrate Epiphany Sunday at the 10 am worship (JUST A FEW WEEKS LATER THAN USUAL). During that worship we will each receive a *star gift* for the New Year, 2010. Epiphany is the day when tradition tells us that the magi arrived with their gifts to offer to the baby Jesus after traveling a great distance following a star in the sky. On Epiphany Sunday each person will receive a *star gift* for this New Year. *Star gifts* are words of the spirit printed on a paper star. These words can be a guide for us on our spiritual journey through this New Year. As the year progresses we will welcome and invite your reflections on what your *star gift* has offered you. Folks of all ages will be welcome to take a star gift. Join us for Epiphany Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Happy New Year to all,

*Barbara J. Libby, Interim Pastor*



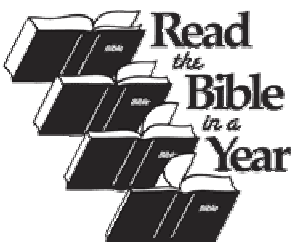
- January 3**      **Second Sunday after Christmas**  
**Communion Sunday**  
Scripture: Revelation 21:1-6a      The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio  
Sermon: “A New Year’s Revelation”
- January 10**      **Christmas Pageant**      Meghan Young
- January 17**      **Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
Scripture: John 2:1-11      The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio  
Sermon: “Listen to Your Mother!”
- January 24**      **Epiphany Star Gift Sunday**  
Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12      The Rev. Barbara J. Libby  
Sermon: “A Reflection on Stars and Star Gifts”
- January 31**      **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
Scripture: Luke 4:21-30      The Rev. Barbara J. Libby  
Sermon: “Where Is God Calling this Church”

**Please Wear Your Name Tag.** We want to get to you know you...each of you. Please do your part by wearing a name tag on Sunday. Visitors (or if you’ve forgotten your name tag) can use the stickers provided in each of the pew pads. If you need a replacement name tag, please contact the church office or one of the deacons.

### **Pastor Barbara Weekly Bible Study**

Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 – 1:30 pm in the Fiorilli Room.

Pastor Barbara leads this lectionary Bible Study where we will read and examine the texts for the coming week’s worship. **All are welcome.** No experience necessary. Bring your favorite translation or pick one from the shelf. Brown bag lunch optional.



**The 2009 Bible Reading Guide is here!** Pick up your copy in the narthex, Chapin Hall or on top of the bookcase in the back hallway. Read your way through the Bible one day at a time this year.



## **BOARD of DEACONS**

***“That they may all be one”***

*John 17:21*

I love the early days of the New Year. It is like peering over a hill...the view somewhat obstructed by the rise of the land ahead. There is some satisfaction in taking a step closer. There may be anticipation in not knowing exactly what to expect along the way. And, there is nervous excitement for the journey itself.

As we, the members and friends of this church community, move ahead into the New Year, let us do it as a UNITED church. After all, our oneness in God has brought us together...brought us this far. But there is still much more work to be done. Much more living to do. The message was made clear through our recent celebration of the Christmas mystery: A loving God that seeks our oneness came to live among us. We are reminded of our unity in the body of Jesus Christ.

So what are our next steps in this New Year? Sure, it would be satisfying (and daunting?) to include a list here, of all the things we need to do this year; at home, at work, at church. Instead, I invite you to approach these early days in 2010 with your newly unwrapped gift from God: “our unity.” That they may all be one” [John 17:21] is the motto of our United Church of Christ. It reflects the spirit of unity on which we can make all other decisions. Unity challenges the cultural demands to separate and segregate. Unity whispers a demand for little more than love in all that we do.

This month, a MOVIE NIGHT (January 9) is planned to view the movie “Chocolat” (2000). A most poignant scene includes the young priest Pere Henri as he offers a memorable Easter sermon. He says, “We can't go around measuring our goodness by what we don't do, by what we deny ourselves, by what we resist and who we exclude; I think we've got to measure goodness by what we embrace, by what we create, and who we include.”

As this church community embarks together on the New Year, let us continue to explore new ways to worship together, to care for each other, and to live together. Let our unity be our inspiration. And, may the prayer of Jesus, **“That they may all be one,”** be our prayer.

Happy New Year.

Bob Inderbitzen, Senior Deacon

[bobmike@cox.net](mailto:bobmike@cox.net)

Your Sisters and Brothers of the Diaconate: Laurel Cole, Deb Copes, Julie Dostie, Tom Fulda, Stephanie Heneghan, Bill Hoffman, Cheryl Hummel, Bob Inderbitzen, Julia Pickett and Gail Tine



## Diaconate News and Notes:

- **THANK YOU!** This year's Thanksgiving Offering totaled nearly \$1,400. Another \$600 was added to the amount from the Diaconate Fund. The monies were divided between two local groups: the Town of Rocky Hill Human Services which provides basic needs assistance, energy assistance, and food commodity for financially disadvantaged citizens, and Loaves & Fishes Ministries which serves 130 meals each day at its soup kitchen in Hartford. Thank you for your generosity!
- **Ministry Evaluation.** A subcommittee of the Board of Deacons is conducting annual evaluations with the ministers. The focus of the evaluation team is to complete an assessment of the church's ministry, and to collaborate with each of the ministers on their specific goals for the next year. The approach encourages the ministers to share their unique perspectives, and invites us to explore how WE are doing.
- **Parish Care.** Please let the deacons or our ministers know if there is someone who would like a visit from our parish care volunteers or would like a ride to and from church. And, let us know if you're interested in volunteering.



### Lifting Up the Spirit in January:

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Looking Back on December...* After kicking off Advent in style, the RHCC Sunday school focused on "Stirring Up the Spirit" during the Christmas Season in our festively decorated chapel, complete with a newly inherited advent wreath. The BIG December highlight was making Christmas Cards for members of the congregation. Also, a very special thank you to all the parents, teachers, board members, and staff who helped out with our advent gathering and making sure the children were here for the Christmas Pageant rehearsals. Due to the snowstorm on December 21<sup>st</sup> the Christmas Pageant, "Not the Last Straw," had to be rescheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup> due to the snowstorm. We hope to see you all there. It is never too late to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

*Kicking off the New Year...* January 3<sup>rd</sup> is a Communion Sunday, so all are invited to attend Family Worship. Sunday School is back in full swing on January 17<sup>th</sup>, so please meet in the Chapel and don't forget to bring your offering. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Blessings for a Spirit filled 2010,

Meghan and The Christian Education Board



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### Stewardship Heads up for January 2010

Your Stewardship Committee wants to wish you a Happy New Year! We have begun our work on the upcoming Stewardship campaign for our new budget year which begins May 1st. This church's vision calls for growth and moving forward boldly into the future. As we develop this year's Stewardship campaign we hope that you will consider increasing your commitment to match our church's vision. When members and friends make an annual "pledge" to this Church, they designate how their pledge will be distributed between "local" and "benevolence." Our church's budget includes moneys for the operation of the Church (the "local" budget) and moneys for Missions (the "benevolence" budget).

Perhaps you'd be interested to learn that roughly 75% of local expense goes toward the staff and staff related items for this church's Pastors, Director of Music, Director of Christian Education, Secretary, Sexton, and Assistant Sexton. The rest of local expenses are related to running the facility, Board and Committee costs, and insurance premiums. Roughly 40% of the benevolence budget goes towards Our Church's Wider Mission, money that supports the mission and program of the larger United Church of Christ, with the remainder going towards various other mission work like the Christian Activities Council, Operation Fuel, Disaster Relief, and the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi.

We are excited to be serving this church in the New Year. We look forward to providing you with more details about where your pledge moneys go in the coming months.

Stewardship Committee: Bill Bartley, Louise Butts, Deb Copes (Financial Secretary), Al Diaz, Hilaire Leavitt and Brian Silkowski



## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The RHCC Search Committee met in December. The committee received relevant sections of the Church's Constitution, and materials from past "visioning" efforts done by our church, as it may be helpful in completing the Church Profile. Each committee member will complete a copy of a "Leadership Expectations" form prior to their next

meeting in hopes of identifying trends in our priorities for our Church Leadership. Their next meeting is slated for January.

## From the Financial Secretary

It's hard to believe another Christmas season is behind us and another tax filing date is approaching. ☺ I will be mailing out tax statements to individuals requesting them before the end of January, 2010. If you would like to receive a tax statement for your 2009 giving and you currently do not receive one, please let me know. If you no longer need a tax statement provided to you, let me know that as well. You can contact me at 860-257-1099 or e-mail me at [finsec@rhccucc.org](mailto:finsec@rhccucc.org) and let me know your wishes.

Thanks so much.

Deb Copes



### Rocky Hill Congregational Cooperative Nursery School

It is time to start registering students for the '10-'11 school year classes in the Rocky Hill Congregational Cooperative Nursery School (RHCCNS). Pre-registration for our church members will be held Jan. 2-12, 2010. We will hold a special registration for church members on **Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010**, in Chapin Hall immediately after the

morning service. If you are not available on that date, you may begin the registration process by contacting Shannon Phelps 860-965-1043 or [sullyphelps@gmail.com](mailto:sullyphelps@gmail.com). Information and applications will be in the church office January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The RHCCNS accepts children who will be: three (3) by the first day of school for the Tuesday/Thursday class: and four (4) by the first day of school for the Monday/Wednesday/Friday class.

Rocky Hill Congregational Church members are given a discount on tuition and a two-week advance registration priority. After January 12<sup>th</sup>, church member priority will expire and registrants will be taken on a first-come, first served basis.

Our Cooperative Nursery School continues to hold its excellent reputation. Our teacher/director, Mrs. Judy Tatem, and assistant teacher, Mrs. Suzy Quirk carry out the goals and activities necessary to implement our developmentally appropriate curriculum. You are welcome to observe or discuss the program by contacting Mrs. Tatem to set up an appointment.



## **Board of Missions**

Rejoice! He is born! We have just wound down from a busy and exciting Advent Season, and now go forward into the New Year to further the work of our church, and the many projects and commitments we have established for the coming year.

Your Board for Missions would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of the congregation (and surrounding community) who have contributed so much of your time and talents, treasures and gifts to all the programs we have been involved with this past year. So many of you have made Missions a priority in your weekly contributions, in whatever amount you could afford, and this has made our work so effective! Also, so many of you have responded to the call for special programs we have put on. 100 Turkeys, \$2200.00 for Foodshare, over 150 toys for the children of Niantic, a successful Walk Against Hunger that brought out 18 walkers and raised so much money, much work was done with Habitat and with House of Abraham, many Tool and Blanket Cards were bought to help Church World Service, special offerings were given to help Rocky Hill Human Services, and so many other organizations both local and global. Several of our youth participated in some of these programs, as well, and it was a joy to see them committing their time to missions work. We are truly blessed to have so many caring and generous members!!

The Board for Missions begins our new calendar year in great appreciation for Steve Smith, who will step down as chair of our board this year. As we elect a new chair this month, we would like to thank Steve for his service to Missions and for the terrific job he has done. The new chair will be announced after our January meeting.

This month, you will have an opportunity to take a church-wide missions survey. Please take a few minutes to fill one out. We value your input and insight in all that we do for Missions. Do you have any new ideas? Know of a particular need? Wish to contribute your time or talent to a particular mission-related activity? Just want to support what we are doing now? Let us know! Look for instructions in upcoming bulletins and on the church website.

Please continue to remember Missions in your weekly offering, and look for other ways to support the work we will be doing in the coming year. Remember that no amount is too little when it comes to time or treasure, and that in the midst of so much need around us, there are so many hands that can reach out in comfort.

Happy New Year!

Your Board for Missions are Dave Bell (Treasurer), Michael Bower, Linda Calcagni, Bob Carberry, Dave Edwards, Diana Gengenbach, Marge Murk (Secretary), Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, Chris Palazzolo, Steve Smith (Chair)



## Neighborhood Comprehensive Community Development Initiative

Ken Esposito and other staff people interviewed forty (40) leaders from the Upper Albany, Blue Hills and Asylum Hill neighborhoods to identify what the needs might be in those areas to better assist the people.

TD Bank awarded the CAC with a \$50,000 housing grant! This will help us immensely to continue our housing initiative.

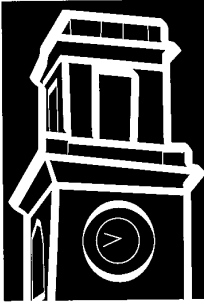
I hope you had a Blessed Christmas,

Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio  
Delegate and Member of the Board of Directors

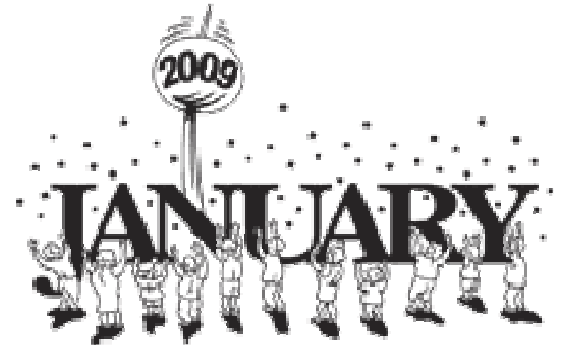


### "Warm Heart Tree"

The Warm Heart Tree will be in the narthex on through January 3rd, we will once again be collecting donations of warm hats, gloves, and scarves to decorate the tree. Please place your donations directly on the tree. Donations can be hand-made, bought, or even a new re-gifted item (let someone benefit from 'Mom, What were you thinking, I will NOT wear that!'). The donations will be distributed to some of Hartford's neediest.



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m. with childcare**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>3 New Year's Sunday</b> RHCCNS registration begins  10:00am <b>Worship and Communion</b>	<b>4</b> 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00pm <b>Board and Committees</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:30pm <b>Bible Study</b> 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>10</b> 10:00am <b>Christmas Pageant</b> RHCCNS registration ends	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm <b>RHCCNS Mtg</b> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00pm <b>Trustees</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:30pm <b>Bible Study</b> 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>17</b> 10:00am <b>Worship</b> 12:00pm Community Event	<b>18 Office Closed</b> 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00pm <b>Council</b> 7:30pm <b>Baby Quilters</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:30pm <b>Bible Study</b> 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>24</b> 10:00am <b>Worship</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>26</b> 10:30am <b>Genesis Health</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 9:30am <b>Ministry Meeting</b> 12:30pm <b>Bible Study</b> 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>31</b> 10:00am <b>Worship</b>			

*Dear Friends of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church*

*Thank you for remembering me on my 99<sup>th</sup> birthday!*

*Dorothea Wiley*

# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

805 Old Main Street – Rocky Hill, CT 06067

(860)529-4167 office • (860)257-9637 fax

office @ rhccucc.org • website: rhccucc.org

Office Hours 8 am – 2 pm – Monday – Friday

The Reverend Barbara J. Libby, Interim Pastor

The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Associate Pastor

The Reverend Arthur C. Weil, Minister Emeritus

Will Kanute, Director of Music



## Church Directory Addendum

Please make the following additions and changes to your Church Directory

Ruby Dimock  
Cobalt Lodge  
Rt. 151  
Cobalt CT 06414

Dorothy Gillet  
52 Missionary Rd  
Pineview 5326  
Cromwell CT 06416  
860 754-0125

Patricia Raymond  
16 Oak Ridge Ave  
Apt 13  
Salem NH 03079

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Office Closed  Happy New Year!	<b>2</b> 8:30am Yoga with Lynn
<b>7</b> 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Search Committee 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 6:30pm Movie/Dinner Nite
<b>14</b> 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8:30am Yoga with Lynn
<b>21</b> 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Yoga with Lynn
<b>28</b> 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA		





# Happy Birthday!

- |    |                     |    |                    |
|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|
| 01 | Juliana Moot        | 17 | Kenneth Rousseau   |
| 02 | Amy Dion            |    | Jeff Peisach       |
|    | Jennifer Tennyson   |    | Ellen Scully       |
|    | Carl Hokans         | 18 | Grace Cole         |
| 03 | Fred Nashold        |    | Daphne Donahue     |
|    | Rose Lewis          | 19 | Anne King          |
| 04 | Michael Bighinatti  | 20 | Lois Stevens       |
|    | Jack Malespini      |    | Nancy Flynn        |
| 05 | Babs Wheeler        | 21 | Liz Vann           |
| 06 | Joan-Marie Schaefer |    | William Cordes     |
|    | Wayne Pipke         |    | Matt Fulda         |
|    | William Day         | 22 | Shirley Griswold   |
|    | JoDee Lupacchino    |    | Betty McKinney     |
| 07 | Julie Anzulewicz    |    | Charlotte Bacon    |
|    | Scott Scheirey      |    | Alfred Papineau Jr |
| 08 | Brian Silkowski     | 23 | Nancy Newton       |
|    | Thomas Day          | 24 | Doris Hick         |
| 09 | Debra Peterson      |    | Dorothy Carruthers |
|    | Ryan Charamut       |    | Joseph Tokarski    |
|    | Melody Hall         |    | Andrew Harvey      |
|    | Brooke Czapkowski   |    | Candy Smith        |
| 10 | Natalie Tine        | 25 | Sylvia Steucek     |
| 11 | Ruby Dimock         |    | Ron Robbins        |
|    | Gregory Pickett     |    | John Engel II      |
| 12 | David Dean          | 26 | Spencer Rupaka     |
|    | Carol Papineau      |    | Brian Bell         |
|    | Daniel MacNeil      |    | Sarah Bell         |
| 13 | Robert Speers       |    | Emily Wakeman      |
|    | Louis DiRenzo       | 27 | Judy Graham        |
| 14 | Marge Murk          |    | Alison MacNeil     |
| 15 | Frederick Ellegard  |    | Emma Vann          |
|    | Mark Sheehan        | 28 | Laura Pandolfo     |
| 16 | Bill McKinney       | 29 | Olga Klatt         |
|    | Doris Schreier      |    | Toryn Pulling      |
|    | Martin Sudell, Jr   | 31 | Judy Tatem         |
|    | Kathryn Eichner     |    | Laurel Cole        |
|    | Logan Torres        |    | Max Polakowski     |



**Merlin and Irene Renshaw**  
were married on  
**January 12, 1948**

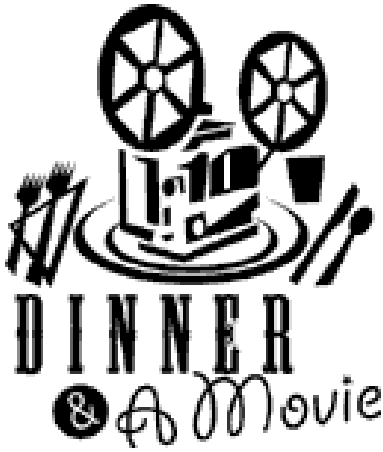
**John and Midge Sword**  
were married on  
**January 19, 1947**

**Percy and Nancy Hall**  
were married on  
**January 27, 1951**

**Congratulations!**



**Family and friends of**  
Paul L. Maynard  
who died 12-07-09



**Come to January's  
Dinner and a Movie  
Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00 p.m.**

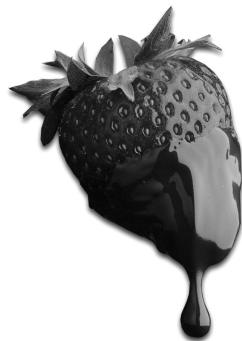
Our feature that nite will be "*Chocolat*" a film starring Juliet Binoche and Johnny Depp and our theme will be.....Chocolate!

Vianne Rocher (Juliette Binoche) and her young daughter are drifters who are met with skepticism and resistance when they move to a conservative town in rural France and open a chocolate shop during Lent. As Vianne begins to work her magic and help those around her, the townspeople are soon won-over by her exuberance and her delicious chocolates - except for the mayor, who is determined to shut her down. When a group of river drifters led by Roux (Johnny Depp) visit the town, Vianne teaches the townspeople something about acceptance, and finds love for herself along the way.

InReach is sponsoring the dinner which includes:

- Stew and Soup
- Salad and Hearty Bread
- Beverages

To round out the chocolate theme,  
dessert features a Chocolate Fountain with a variety of dippers.



**YUM!**

## “SCRIP-SURE” Fundraising Program

Following a very successful launch in November, the Scrip fundraising program begins the year 2010 with a new name and a regular, ongoing schedule. First – a recap of November’s results.

For the first ordering period, 29 church members ordered 417 cards with a face value of more than \$13,400, generating a profit for the church of \$960. The cards represented 72 different retailers and restaurants. Stop & Shop cards had the largest volume, with more than \$2000 ordered. The church earned a profit margin ranging by retailer from 1.5% to 18%, averaging 7.3%. And while some cards were ordered to be Christmas gifts, most were apparently purchased by members to use for their own everyday shopping.

Here are some of the comments received from those who ordered in November:

- *“This program should be a no-brainer for everyone in the church to participate. It is impossible to live in Rocky Hill or nearby and not use several of these retailers regularly.”*
- *“Almost seems a bit too good to be true.”*
- *“I purchased cards from places I regularly shop; so I’ll use them myself, and RHCC gets a share. It’s a win/win!”*

The power of the program lies in the potential for recurring orders. To that end, we’ve given the program a catchier name – “**Scrip-Sure**” – and a regular schedule that you can plan on. Orders will be taken each month, starting in January. For each month, the deadline for orders will be the last Sunday of the month, and all scrip ordered during a month will be delivered on the first Sunday of the following month. So, for example, all orders placed by January 31, 2010 will be available for pickup on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Order forms and a list of participating retailers will be available in Chapin Hall and on the church web site. As before, orders may be emailed to [treasurer@rhccucc.org](mailto:treasurer@rhccucc.org). If you email your order, you may use the spreadsheet available on the church web site, or simply send a normal email with a list of the cards desired. Order forms may also be placed in the appropriate box in Chapin Hall. Payments must be made by the ordering deadline date. Checks can be mailed to the church, placed in the Sunday morning offering plate, or included with your order form in Chapin Hall. (Please mark “Scrip” in the memo section of your check.)

For more details, and for the most complete and up-to-date listings of all participating retailers, please follow the appropriate link on the church web site.

Dave Hall, Treasurer

Christmas greetings from Geoffrey Black,  
General Minister and President



December 15, 2009

Dear United Church of Christ family of faith:

This is the first occasion that, as General Minister and President, I have had the pleasure of sending this Advent / Christmas greeting to you, my sisters and brothers, who share in the ministry and mission of the United Church of Christ. Grace and peace to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, whose birth we anticipate and celebrate anew!

It has been a little less than three months since I embarked on this journey of service leadership. During these initial months, I along with staff colleagues have devoted significant time to visiting and listening to UCC people as they share their visions for the future of the church. These experiences have been inspiring and informative for me, and I also have been the recipient of very gracious hospitality and, what we like to call, extravagant welcome. For this enriching start to my new work, I am very grateful.

Advent is a time of holy anticipation. It is a season of looking forward with the expectation that God will reveal the Divine presence here on earth, in our midst. For that we prayerfully wait not in despair, but in hope and active preparatory engagement.

The wonderful reality of Advent is that it segues into Christmas, the celebration of the birth of the Christ child, Jesus. For us, he is the fulfillment of God's willingness to be with us, thus blessing our lives with renewed hope. Our hope is grounded in God's presence in Christ, and the Holy Spirit enables and emboldens us to take initiative to persist in the quest for peace among nations and to seek to be at peace ourselves, to press on for health care for all and to grow as stewards of God's creation.

For me, God's enduring presence is the source of the joy of this season. In the face of all we know and all that challenges our wellbeing, we are reminded that we are not alone. In Jesus, our Emmanuel, God is with us.

This year, I join with all of my coworkers and colleagues here at the United Church of Christ National Offices in prayerfully wishing you blessed and joyful Christmas season!

Yours, in the blessedness and joy of the season,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geoffrey A. Black".

Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President United  
Church of Christ



## From the Scholarship Committee

Each year, our church awards college scholarships which are funded by investment returns from the Scholarship Endowment Funds. Applicants should be members of Rocky Hill Congregational Church, active members of one of its youth organizations, or active participants in the life of the church. Awards are based upon church and community involvement, demonstrated scholastic achievement, financial need, and the completion and submission of a scholarship application form. Scholarships may be awarded for up to four years of undergraduate studies. Recommendations on scholarship recipients are made by the Scholarship Committee, whose members are appointed by the Board of Trustees. This recommendation is then subject to the final approval of the Trustees.

Graduating high school seniors and returning college undergraduates who are seeking a church scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year should obtain an application from the church office or from the web site, [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.org) and may be submitted electronically. Please complete and return it prior to April 15, 2010. Scholarship awards will be announced in June.

### Scholarship Directory Available

A directory of scholarships that are available to college-bound students in the 29-town Greater Hartford region is now available from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Students can pick up a copy of the directory from their school guidance office or you can access it online at [www.hfpg.org/scholarships](http://www.hfpg.org/scholarships), or call the Foundation to obtain a copy.



Frank Roswell Fuller was born in Hartford on August 23, 1873 and attended local public schools. He went to New York City and later formed his own company at 40 Wall Street known as Fuller & Company, which operated from 1904 to 1920. When he retired he came to live in West Hartford. He died on March 1, 1957. His will, probated in the Probate Court for District of Hartford, established a substantial scholarship fund. Mr. Fuller was always interested in helping “needy, deserving” students obtain the education that he had not been able to enjoy himself.

There will also be application packets in the church office.

Remember to file your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to federal processor by March 1. You may obtain a FAFSA application from your high school guidance counselor or at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

The deadline for submitting your application and other documents is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Wednesday Morning Quilters**

### Quilters Christmas Gifts

Throughout the year the Quilters have assembled colorful lap robes and small comfort pillows. In December these are given to our local Rocky Hill nursing homes – Apple Rehab, Rocky Hill Health Care, and Maplevue Manor, and to the Veterans Home and Hospital. Quilters also make monetary contributions to Human Services for fuel assistance or food.—Grace Cole

## **Women's Fellowship**

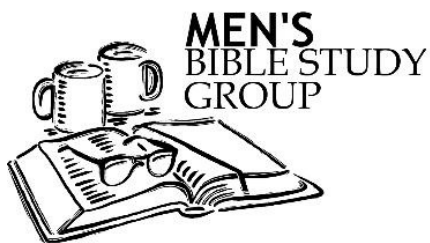
### Quilters/Crafters

Women meet once a month on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm to work on baby quilts and/or your own project of choice. This is a great fellowship time for all. I even hear sometimes there is dessert!! If you have not been attending, please come and leave your name and email address on the sign up sheet provided and Kim will send you reminders each month.

## **Always Welcome!**



Hunger never takes a holiday... Food Pantries need our help to meet the food demands...Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item, laundry detergent, or baby items to worship every time you come. The large basket in the front foyer of the church welcomes all food donations. One of our Pew Crew members noticed that the narthex was overflowing with your generosity and thought Bill McKinney could use some help. We put out a call for help and as usual the Pew Crew responded immediately. Mark Williams sends a thank you note every month in gratitude for your generosity.



**The Saturday Men's Bible Study Group** As always they are seeking additional members. If you are interested in studying scripture, discussing how it relates to our daily lives, engaging in open religious and spiritual discussions, the Men's Bible Study Group may be just what you have been looking for. The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor.



## Snowy Sundays

In the event of winter weather on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of church members. Some winters the snow and ice are a real danger, and so worship is cancelled for the day. If such a storm happens, please know that a system is in place to make as many of our members and friends aware as possible. If and when worship is canceled, notice will be posted on Channel 3 WFSB-TV, and the voice mail greeting on the church phone will be updated with the cancellation if you choose to phone the main number. Additionally, an email and phone tree will alert church leaders to the same information. It takes a real storm to disrupt our worship, but if that happens, we want to be ready. Cancellations will also be posted on the church website: [www.rhccucc.org](http://www.rhccucc.org)



## A note from Inreach...

*“Around the world coffee and fellowship come together where we share community. A warm pot of coffee is often the centerpiece of fellowship hour and other gatherings.”*

Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea or Hot Cocoa would make an excellent gift! Why not pick some up after church this Sunday? During fellowship time in Chapin Hall, the Inreach Committee has available for purchase:

Gourmet Coffee - \$6.25/bag    Tea - \$3/box    Hot Cocoa Mix \$5/can

For more information about the UCC Coffee Project: [www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project](http://www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project)



## Sock-Hop Dance

**Save the Date!**

**Saturday, February 6, 2010**

Sponsored by InReach

Sounds by

Jim Hogan's Music Mix!

## GREETING THE NEW YEAR

—author unknown

In this special moment of life

... in this New Year...

Practice patience

Smile often

Forgive an enemy

See beauty everywhere

Try something new

Make some mistakes and learn  
from them

Laugh heartily

Believe in others

Take time for yourself

Reach out

Let someone in

Trust life

Take a chance

Listen to the rain

Tell those you love that you do

Count your blessings

Pick some flowers

Believe in yourself

Watch a sunrise

Keep a promise

Observe miracles

Worry less

Try to understand

Slow down

Cry when you need

Be soft

Believe in God



Above all, trust in the  
slow work of the Spirit.

We are quite naturally  
impatient in everything  
to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the  
intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on  
the way to something unknown,  
something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress  
that it is made by passing through  
some stage of instability  
and that it may take a very long time.  
Give yourself the benefit of believing  
that the Spirit is leading you,  
and accept the anxiety of feeling  
yourself in suspense  
and incomplete.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin  
(1881-1955)

**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067**  
**Telephone # 860 529-4167**

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Mailed December 28, 2009



Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we.  
The United Church of Christ:  
No matter who you are,  
Or where you are on life's journey...  
You're welcome here.

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES  
January 15**

